

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE NEW ORLEANS CITY PARK IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

A meeting of the Board of Commissioners (the "Board") of the New Orleans City Park Improvement Association (the "NOCPIA") was called to order Tuesday, December 17, 2013 at 4:00 p.m. by President Bill Hoffman. The meeting was held in the City Park Administration Building, located at 1 Palm Drive, New Orleans, Louisiana 70124.

PRESENT: Commissioners Brooks, Chase, Clarkson (represented by Susan Baxter) DeBlieux, Fernandez, Fierke, Giffin, Guidry, Hess, Hoffman, Johnson, Katz, Laborde, LaFranca, LeGrand, Lupo, Masinter, McKay, McKeithen, Palumbo, Pettus, Powell, Schrenk, Shreves, and Tregre

ABSENT: Commissioners Bingler, Brown, Crawford, Farnet, Hales, Payton, Romig, Slone, Sloss and Vesich

STAFF: Bob Becker, Rob DeViney, Kevin Cox, John Hopper, Geneva Marney and Denise Joubert

GUESTS: Tim Ryan, Walter Brooks, Stephen Frischhertz, Ellen Frischhertz, Dr. Gregory Rich, Dr. Rose Lemarie, Diana Raphael

A quorum was present and voting throughout the meeting.

President Hoffman welcomed and thanked everyone for coming.

The November minutes were approved.

Chief Development Director, John Hopper, introduced Geneva Marney who was recently hired as the Major Gifts and Planned Giving Officer for the Park.

In the Management Report, Chief Executive Officer Becker reported final numbers are not available due to timing of the Board meeting. Celebration in the Oaks results are below plan due to inclement weather conditions. Management is prepared to deal with the shortfall.

No progress has been made to secure the release of State funds for the Golf and Splash Park projects.

The Trust for Public Land made the final payment on their pledge for the Festival Grounds. The funds will go toward the construction of a playground in the area by the Reunion Shelter. Becker showed pictures of a shelter at the ropes course on Goat Island built by Tulane Architectural students as a class project.

President Hoffman presented the President's Award to several individuals for their outstanding support of the Park. The recipients were:

Steve Frischhertz	Donation of services and improvements to the Park's lighting system.
Eddie Williams (Not Present)	Assistance in bringing back the "Ladybug Roller Coaster."
Walter Brooks	Tireless efforts to direct State and Federal resources to the Park.

A special award for Environmental Services to the Park was presented to:

Dr. Gregory Rich	Care and treatment of Amanda, City Park's Black Swan.
Dr. Rose Lemarie	Care and treatment of Amanda, City Park's Black Swan
Dr. Kenneth Ranson (Not Present)	Care and treatment of Amanda, City Park's Black Swan

Becker introduced Dr. Tim Ryan, Ph.D. who presented an update on the Economic Impact of City Park on the New Orleans economy. President Hoffman thanked Dr. Ryan for his presentation.

Becker reviewed a list all completed and upcoming projects of the Park's Master Plan. A Public Hearing is tentatively scheduled for February 18th to discuss changes to the Master Plan.

Becker stated in 2014 the Park will again make an effort to be included in the State's General Fund, and will also take an aggressive approach in seeking other public aid for the Park. Commissioner Cleland Powell asked if the Park has a lobbyist; Becker said the Friends retain a lobbyist at the State level.

A brief discussion took place in regards to the management of Bayou St. John. Councilwoman Susan Guidry would like to be included in any future discussions in regards to the management of the Bayou.

Committee Report:

A&E – No Report

Athletics – No Report

Golf – No Report

Development – Commissioner Susan Hess approached Norfolk Southern Railroad for a possible donation.

Finance – Commissioner Larry Katz reminded all Commissioners to complete the Audit Questionnaire.

Special Events/CITO – Commissioner Dessa Giffin reported the preview party was successful with lots of room to grow. Attendance for the Family Park doubled with over 1800 people attending.

Horticulture and Grounds – Commissioner Jane Brooks showed pictures of four oak trees being moved from the Golf Course.

NOMA – Discussions are ongoing in regards to the Sculpture Garden expansion.

Nominating – No Report

Legal – Commissioner Paul Masinter reported work continues on the By-Laws and Articles of Incorporation.

Public Relations – No Report

Tennis – Commissioner Errol Laborde reported the handicap ramp at the tennis complex has been completed. Laborde encouraged everyone to visit the Pro Shop which has lots of great merchandise.

Friends of City Park – Commissioner Mary Johnson reported Casie Duplechain has been hired as Executive Director for Friends. Friends currently has more than 3800 members. Lark in the Park is scheduled for March 14th with the funds dedicated toward the restoration of the Carousel. Beau Bassich is the honorary chair for the event.

Dog Park – Commissioner Jackie Shreves reported a public meeting is scheduled for December 17th. The shelter for the small Dog Park will be installed by February.

New Business: President Hoffman reminded all Commissioners Ethics training is due by December 31st.

Public comment was then invited.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 28, 2014 at 4:00 pm.

Denise Joubert
Recording Secretary

Jackie Shreves

Secretary